

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

## INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

DATE August 1, 2016



**FROM** Brent A. Story, P.E., State Design Policy Engineer

**TO** Engineering Services, OPD, IPD, TIA, Engineering, Operations, Construction, and Field Districts

**SUBJECT** **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit GAR100002, Storm Water Discharges Associated with Infrastructure Projects**

This is notice that the Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Division (EPD) recently modified the NPDES General Permit GAR100002. The modification was effective July 1, 2016. The expiration date of the permit is July 31, 2018. The permit is published on the EPD's website at: <http://epd.georgia.gov/npdes-construction-storm-water-general-permits>.

A summary of the relevant modifications that effect GDOT are:

- Modified Part 1.C.1.d. of the permit: *"coverage under this permit is not required for discharges of storm water associated with infrastructure road construction projects that consist solely of routine maintenance for the original purpose of the facility that is performed to maintain the original line and grade and vehicular capacity, as applicable."..."In order to be eligible for this exemption the project must comply with the following conditions: (1) no mass grading shall occur on the project, (2) the project shall be stabilized by the end of each day with temporary or permanent stabilization measures, (3) the project shall have a duration of less than 120 calendar days, and (4) final stabilization must be implemented at the end of the maintenance project;"*.

Effect on GDOT: some GDOT maintenance activities or maintenance projects may not need a Notice of Intent (NOI) prior to construction activities; however, erosion control BMPs are still required.

- Modified Part IV. (iii) of the permit: "no construction activities shall be conducted within a 25 foot buffer along coastal marshlands, as measured horizontally from the coastal marshland-upland interface,"

Effect on GDOT: GDOT projects located along a coastal marshland will require the delineation of a 25 foot buffer on the construction plans, and no construction activities shall occur within the buffer unless the Department has obtained a "buffer variance", or the activity falls within any of the eight exempt activities listed within Part IV. (iii) of the permit.

The Office of Design Policy & Support is updating the *ESPCP General Notes 2016* template to comply with Part IV. (iii). of General Permit, and with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission's 2016 ESPCP Checklist Item-15. The update will be published within the next week and automatic announcements will be made to subscribers of the R.O.A.D.S. webpage.

Please address questions related to the General Permit, or the GDOT ESPCP guidelines, to the Office of Design Policy & Support, Water Resources Group at [ESPCP@dot.ga.gov](mailto:ESPCP@dot.ga.gov), or contact Dylan Eagleton or Brad McManus at (404) 631-1978.

BAS:DGP:MBM:dle